



**UPPER COLORADO RIVER
INTERAGENCY FIRE MANAGEMENT**
NPS Colorado National Monument
BLM Northwest Colorado District
USFS White River National Forest



NEWS RELEASE

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Aircraft and weather help check spread of wildfire southwest of Rifle

RIFLE, Colo. – Fire crews will continue to work through the evening on the Houston Mountain Fire, which is burning in pinyon and juniper trees about six miles southwest of Rifle.

The fire spread quickly after it was reported about 5 p.m., creating a large column of smoke visible along the I-70 corridor.

A quick response from multiple engine crews, three heavy air tankers, a single engine air tanker, a heavy helicopter, two support planes and the 20-person Sante Fe Hotshots kept the fire to an estimated 15 acres. Evening rain showers are helping firefighters as well.

Structures and natural gas wells in the area are not immediately threatened.

Firefighters currently expect to have the fire contained tomorrow and do not anticipate it to significantly grow. The cause of the fire is under investigation, but fire officials suspect lightning.

Crews from the Upper Colorado River Interagency Fire Management Unit were assisted by Colorado River Fire Rescue, Grand Valley Fire Protection District, and the Garfield County Sheriff's Office.

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